readjustment which followed the World War and suffered acutely in the world-wide depression which began in 1929. To many Japanese Manchuria seemed their "life line" and their control of that region the one hope of escaping a national collapse. From the military standpoint, Manchuria appeared necessary as a strategic position against a possible war with Russia. Moreover, in case of a naval war with the United States or some other power, it would prove invaluable as a source of raw materials and perhaps of manufactures. A growing group of military men and super-patriots were impatient with the half-way measures of the politicians and diplomats. Chinese nationalists, on the other hand, were more and more resentful of Japan's special position in Manchuria. Chang Hsiieh-liang's government was not always considerate of Japanese interests and was frequently extremely annoying to the Japanese authorities.

As is so often the case when a tense situation exists, the immediate incidents which provoked the crisis were comparatively trivial. In the summer of 1931 a conflict occurred between Chinese and Koreans over an irrigation ditch, but with no casualties. Kort^s, overcrowded at home, had moved into the adjacent portions of Manchuria by tte hundreds of thousands. For the most part they remained Japanese subjects. In Korea, by the disorders in Manchuria, public opinion was inflamed and anti-Chinese riots broke out with heavy losses of Chinese life and property. In June, moreover, a Japanese army officer and several companions were shot by Chinese soldiers in an interior station in Manchuria, and the Japanese maintained that the Chinese authorities were not sufficiently active in punishing the offenders.

On the night of September 18-19th Japanese troops seized Mukden, alleging that Chinese had blown up a part of the track of the South Manchurian Railway near the city. This Japanese action was followed, in the next few weeks, by the occupation of other strategic centers in Manchuria, including several in North Manchuria, in what had been regarded as the Russian sphere of interest. Chang Hsiieh-liang, most of whose forces were south of the Great Wall, had headquarters in Peking but with manifestly waning prestige. With the collapse of Chang's regime in the Three Eastern Provinces, temporary local governing committees of Chinese were set up, with assistance and often under pressure